

ER: 61/7206/b

19 SEP 1961

Conrad

Mr. Stephen A. Marglin
Dunster House
Harvard College
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Marglin:

Upon returning to my office from a brief trip out of the country, your letter of 6 September inviting me to participate in a seminar at the Dunster House, Harvard College, sometime this fall was brought to my attention.

I sincerely regret that I will be unable to accept your kind invitation. In view of my official position, it is necessary to restrict my speaking engagements to the various service schools except for a rare occasion when I make an outside talk. Unfortunately I cannot make an additional commitment at this time.

It was thoughtful of you to ask me to join you and I am sorry that my reply cannot be more favorable.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
Director

STAT

O/DC: [redacted] : vgd 15 Sep 61

Distribution:

- orig - addressee
- 1 - DCI
- 1 - Col Grogan
- ✓ - ER w/basic and memo from Col Grogan
- 1 - FMC

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

Attached are the comments of Stan Grogan in which he recommends that you decline this invitation, and also a copy of the letter that I wrote to Mr. Marglin during your absence.

JMK
FMC
15 September 61
gfr

(DATE)

STAT

14 September 1961

[Redacted]

Recommend the DCI not participate in this seminar on "The invasion of Cuba -- the role of a peacetime CIA in a democracy," which Mr. Marglin further clarifies with this statement:

"The seminar would profit greatly from your years of experience in struggling both with the problems - moral, political and technical - raised by the existence of the CIA and with the conditions which have given rise to its existence."

Aside from the moral, political and technical aspects of CIA, the outline for the seminars is somewhat surprising. Potential topics for discussion are (1.) Individual responsibility and participation in collective action: the punitive bombing of Germany and the A-bombing of Japan; and (2.) The legislation of morals: prostitution, birth control (including abortion), homosexuality, obscenity, gambling, and prohibition. Also there is the "welfare state" and "right versus the law" which goes into the freedom riders.

These are wing-dingers and indicate very lively and intimate seminars, which when they are completed, will still let us poor mortals know about the A-bombing of Japan and the punitive bombing of Germany, and I imagine we will still have with us prostitution, birth control (including abortion), homosexuality, obscenity, gambling, and prohibition.

I think Mr. Dulles would be well advised to stay clear of this whole intellectual, gymnastic performance.

[Redacted]
Stanley J. Grogan
Assistant to the Director

Attach.

STAT

Executive Registry
61-7206

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

MANAGEMENT SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER
STEPHENS BUILDING
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

September 6, 1961

Mr . Allen W. Dulles
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

I am in the process of organizing a seminar for presentation at Dunster House, Harvard College, this fall on the scope for individual liberty, responsibility and participation in collective action; the seminar is described in the enclosed outline. House seminars at Harvard are designed to fill the gap, when it arises, between questions of interest and concern to the faculty and students and problems which can be covered in the traditional course syllabus.

Might you be able to come to Cambridge to participate in the session on the role of a peacetime CIA in a democracy (topic no. 3 in the enclosed outline)? The seminar would profit greatly from your years of experience in struggling both with the problems - moral, political and technical - raised by the existence of the CIA and with the conditions which have given rise to its existence. I have tentatively scheduled the meeting on this subject for the evening of Sunday, November 5, but this could be changed if another date would be more convenient. We should be delighted to pay all expenses.

I shall be at the above address only for the rest of this week and should therefore appreciate it if you would address your reply to Dunster House, Harvard College, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

I hope to hear from you soon, and, even more, I hope that it proves possible for you to accept this invitation.

Yours faithfully,

Stephen A. Marglin

SAM/at
Encl.

TO:

FROM: Stephen A. Marglin

SUBJECT: Proposed House Seminar, Fall Term, 1961-2

Individual Liberty, Responsibility, and Political
Participation versus the Imperatives of Collective
Action.

I hope in this seminar to examine the scope for individual liberty in a society in which the technology makes individuals ever more dependent on one another, and the welfare of one ever more dependent on the actions of all others. In addition, I hope we will be able to examine the impact of modern technology on the extent of individual responsibility for, and participation in, "collective" choices. Insofar as there is room for individual participation, we will consider as well the problem of framing highly technical questions -- the "cardinal choices" of C. P. Snow's lexicon -- in ways that evoke intelligent public discussion.

My plan is that these broad themes would be pursued in a series of particular cases. A member of the seminar and an outside guest might prepare short introductions to the problem under discussion, the member perhaps laying out the general problem and the guest providing first-hand background information. A general discussion of an hour and a half might follow these introductions of perhaps thirty minutes duration.

The following are potential topics for discussion:

1. Individual responsibility and participation in collective action:

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of
Japan.

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2. The legislation of morals: prostitution, birth control (including abortion), homosexuality, obscenity, gambling, and prohibition.

3. Individual responsibility and participation in collective action: the invasion of Cuba -- the role of a peacetime CIA in a democracy.

4. The "welfare state." Individual liberty and responsibility versus collective action: the rate of economic growth, compulsory social security, government support of cultural activities.

5. Right versus the law: the "rights" to revolution, civil disobedience, free speech here and elsewhere. (For example, would the freedom riders be any less moral if held to be illegal under Alabama law and by the U. S. Supreme Court?)